

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7051

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC ISSUES: EXIM CREDIT GUARANTEE

ARREARAGES AND NATIONALIZATION COMPENSATION

REF: (A) STATE 103120 (B) BANGUI 0717

SUMMARY: DURING A MAY 10 CALL ON FINANCE MINISTER GBOKOU, AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH HER PROBLEMS OF GOCAR ARREARAGES ON EXIM CREDITS AND GUARANTEES AND LACK OF COMPENSATION FOR PREVIOUSLY NATIONALIZED US COMPANIES. HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING CLAIMS. END SUMMARY

1. WITH REGARD TO GOCAR'S ARREARAGES ON UCBI AND EXIM LOANS AND CREDITS, AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING PROMPT PAYMENTS OF ALL OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS. HE NOTED THAT FAILURE TO MEET PAYMENT SCHEDULE WOULD HAVE EFFECT ON CREDIT WORTHINESS OF CAR GOVERNMENT AND ABILITY TO OBTAIN FUTURE ASSISTANCE FROM EXIM AND OTHER US FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

2. AMBASSADOR URGED FINANCE MINISTER TO MAKE PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF COMPENSATION CLAIMS PENDING FROM TEXACO AND MOBIL FOR 1974 NATIONALIZATION OF THEIR ASSETS IN CAR. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THE NEED TO RESOLVE THIS

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PARTICULAR PROBLEM, IF CAR WAS TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT BOKASSA HAD GIVEN WRITTEN INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ISSUE BUT TO DATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND GOCAR OFFICIALS HAD NOT REACHED SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION.

3. MADAME GBOKOU SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH SUBJECTS AND WOULD BRING THEM PROMPTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MINISTERS. SHE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOLUTION DID NOT LIE EXCLUSIVELY WITH HER MINISTRY BUT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER MINISTRIES, INCLUDING POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, OF WHICH PRESIDENT BOKASSA IS MINISTER, AND MINISTRY FOR STATE ORGANIZATIONS. MINISTER GBOKOU UNDERTOOK TO REPORT BACK ON ANY DECISIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS DEMARCHE MAY WELL NUDGE GOCAR TOWARD MORE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THESE TWO ISSUES, MADAME GBOKOU'S RESPONSE DID NOT GIVE ANY HOPE THAT IMMEDIATE AND FULL SETTLEMENT WAS IN THE OFFING. SHE NOTED RUEFULLY THAT GOCAR HAD SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ALL OF WHOM ARE LEVYING CLAIMS ON GOCAR'S LIMITED RESOURCES.
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